

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5        This invention relates to peptides and their preparation. The peptides each have a sequence that corresponds to the immunodominant region of the HIV-1 group O gp41 envelope protein. The sequence is characterized in that it does not correspond to any known naturally occurring group O sequence or variant. Furthermore, the peptide binds anti-HIV-1 group O antibodies. There are  
10      several uses for the peptides, including the detection of antibodies produced in response to HIV-1 group O infection. The peptides may also be incorporated in mosaics and expressed recombinantly.

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